

AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. - 22. (cancelled).

23. (currently amended) A gas generating composition comprising

(a) from 10 to 60 weight-% of a tetrazole derivative selected from the group consisting of tetrazole, 5-aminotetrazole, 5,5'-bi-1H-tetrazole, 5-nitroaminotetrazole, zinc salt of 5-aminotetrazole, copper salt of 5-aminotetrazole, bitetrazole, potassium salt of bitetrazole, sodium salt of bitetrazole, magnesium salt of bitetrazole, calcium salt of bitetrazole, diammonium salt of bitetrazole, copper salt of bitetrazole and melamine salt of bitetrazole or a tetrazole derivatives, or at least one guanidine derivative selected from the group consisting of guanidine, mono-, di-, or tri-aminoguanidine nitrate, guanidine nitrate, guanidine carbonate, nitroguanidine, dicyandiamide, nitroaminoguanidine, and nitroaminoguanidine nitrate and

(b) from 40 to 90 weight-% of a basic metal nitrate having a particle diameter of 0.5 to 40 μ m.

24. (previously presented) The gas generating composition of claim 23, further comprising (c) a binder and/or a slag-forming agent.

25. - 28. (cancelled).

29. (currently amended) A gas generating composition as in claim 23, comprising ~~(a) tetrazole derivatives, guanidine derivatives or a mixture thereof and (b) a basic metal nitrate,~~ said composition ~~meeting at least one requirement~~ having at least one feature selected from the following features (1) to (3):

(1) a weight loss ratio of the gas generating composition, when the gas generating composition is retained in a closed state at 90°C for 1,000 hours or at 110°C for 400 hours, of ~~[[is]]~~ 2.0 % or less,

(2) concentrations of trace gases contained in a gas generated by the combustion of the gas generating composition, as values measured in a 2,800-liter tank, of 400 ppm or less for CO, 40 ppm or less for NO, 8 ppm or less for NO₂ and 100 ppm or less for NH₃, and

(3) a maximum internal pressure in a gas generator on the combustion of the gas generating composition ~~[[is]]~~ of 7,840 to 22,500 kPa.

30. (previously presented) The gas generating composition of claim 29, further comprising (c) a binder and/or a slag-forming agent.

31. – 33. (cancelled).

34. (currently amended) The gas generating composition as claimed in Claims 23 ~~any one of Claims 23, 25, or 29~~, wherein the basic metal nitrate as component (b) is at least one selected from the group consisting of a basic copper nitrate, a basic cobalt nitrate, a basic zinc nitrate, a basic manganese nitrate, a basic iron nitrate, a basic molybdenum nitrate, a basic bismuth nitrate and a basic cerium nitrate.

35. – 38. (cancelled)

39. (currently amended) The gas generating composition as claimed in Claims 24 ~~any one of Claims 24, 26, or 30~~, wherein the binder as component (c) is not crosslinkable.

40. (currently amended) The gas generating composition as claimed in

Claim 39, wherein the binder and/or the slag-forming agent as component (c) is a member selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, potassium carboxymethylcellulose, ammonium carboxymethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetatebutyrate ~~acetatebutylate~~, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, ethylhydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethylethyl cellulose, fine crystalline cellulose, polyacrylic amide, aminated compounds of polyacrylic amide, polyacrylic hydrazide, a copolymer of an acrylic amide and a metal salt of acrylic acid, a copolymer of polyacrylic amide and polyacrylic ester, polyvinyl alcohol, acrylic rubber, guar gum, starch, polysaccharides ~~including starch~~, silicone, molybdenum disulfide, Japanese acid clay, talc, bentonite, diatomaceous earth, kaolin, calcium stearate, silica, alumina, sodium silicate, silicon nitrate, silicon carbide, hydrotalcite, mica, a metal oxide, a metal hydroxide, a metal carbonate, a basic metal carbonate and a molybdate.

41. – 49. (cancelled).

50. (withdrawn - previously presented) The gas generating composition as claimed in Claim 24, which comprises (a) nitroguanidine, (b) a basic copper nitrate and (c) sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

51. (withdrawn - currently amended) The gas generating composition as claimed in Claim 50, which comprises 15 to 55 % by weight of (a) nitroguanidine, 45 to 70 % by weight of (b) a basic copper nitrate and 0.1 to 15 % by weight of ~~[[C]]~~ (c) sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

52. (withdrawn - currently amended) The gas generating composition as claimed in claim 24, which comprises (a) nitroguanidine, (b) a basic copper nitrate, (c-1) sodium carboxymethylcellulose and a second binder or slag-

forming agent (c-2) selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose, potassium carboxymethylcellulose, ammonium carboxymethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetatebutyrate ~~acetatebutylate~~, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, ethylhydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethylethyl cellulose, fine crystalline cellulose, polyacrylic amide, aminated compounds of polyacrylic amide, polyacrylic hydrazide, a copolymer of an acrylic amide and a metal salt of acrylic acid, a copolymer of polyacrylic amide and polyacrylic ester, polyvinyl alcohol, acrylic rubber, guar gum, starch, polysaccharides ~~including starch~~, silicone, molybdenum disulfide, Japanese acid clay, talc, bentonite, diatomaceous earth, kaolin, calcium stearate, silica, alumina, sodium silicate, silicon nitrate, silicon carbide, hydrotalcite, mica, a metal oxide, a metal hydroxide, a metal carbonate, a basic metal carbonate and a molybdate.

53. – 64. (cancelled).

65. (withdrawn - currently amended) The gas generating composition as claimed in Claim 24, which comprises (a) dicyandiamide, (b) a basic copper nitrate, (c-1) sodium carboxymethylcellulose and a second binder or slag-forming agent (c-2) selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose, potassium carboxymethylcellulose, ammonium carboxymethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetatebutyrate ~~acetatebutylate~~, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, ethylhydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethylethyl cellulose, fine crystalline cellulose, polyacrylic amide, aminated compounds of polyacrylic amide, polyacrylic hydrazide, a copolymer of an acrylic amide and a metal salt of acrylic acid, a copolymer of polyacrylic amide and polyacrylic ester, polyvinyl alcohol, acrylic rubber, guar gum, starch, polysaccharides ~~including starch~~, silicone, molybdenum disulfide, Japanese acid clay, talc, bentonite,

diatomaceous earth, kaolin, calcium stearate, silica, alumina, sodium silicate, silicon nitrate, silicon carbide, hydrotalcite, mica, a metal oxide, a metal hydroxide, a metal carbonate, a basic metal carbonate and a molybdate.

66. (cancelled).

67. (previously presented) A gas generating composition comprising (a) guanidine nitrate, (b) a basic copper nitrate and (c) sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

68. (previously presented) The gas generating composition as claimed in Claim 67, which comprises 15 to 60 % by weight of (a) guanidine nitrate, 40 to 70 % by weight of (b) a basic copper nitrate and 0.1 to 15 % by weight of (c) sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

69. (withdrawn – currently amended) A gas generating composition according to Claim 68, comprising (a) guanidine nitrate, (b) a basic copper nitrate, (c-1) sodium carboxymethylcellulose and a second binder or slag-forming agent (c-2) selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose, potassium carboxymethylcellulose, ammonium carboxymethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetatebutyrate ~~acetatebutylate~~, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, ethylhydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethylethyl cellulose, fine crystalline cellulose, polyacrylic amide, aminated compounds of polyacrylic amide, polyacrylic hydrazide, a copolymer of an acrylic amide and a metal salt of acrylic acid, a copolymer of polyacrylic amide and polyacrylic ester, polyvinyl alcohol, acrylic rubber, guar gum, starch, polysaccharides ~~including starch~~, silicone, molybdenum disulfide, Japanese acid clay, talc, bentonite, diatomaceous earth, kaolin, calcium stearate, silica, alumina, sodium silicate,

silicon nitrate, silicon carbide, hydrotalcite, mica, a metal oxide, a metal hydroxide, a metal carbonate, a basic metal carbonate and a molybdate.

70. – 72. (cancelled).

73. (currently amended) A molded article in the form of a single-perforated cylinder, a porous cylinder, or pellets, wherein said molded article comprises a gas generating composition as claimed in any one of Claims 23, 24, 29, 30, 67, 68, or 69 ~~the molded article being obtained from the gas generating composition as claimed in any one of Claims 23-26, 29, or 30.~~

74. (cancelled).